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SANITIZED

March 20, 1963

The Vice President

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Colonel Burris

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Highlights

Cuba

Reports of Soviet submarine bases at various places along the Cuban coast cannot be substantiated by any source of information. Detailed analysis of photography reveals no evidence, and checks of refugee reports (insofar as possible) have proved completely inconclusive.

Yugoslavia

Kennon reports that Tito has come to certain conclusions following his visit to Moscow about his place in East-West relations. He apparently feels that it is necessary to preserve a balance between the East and West and he would do so on the one hand by deferring to Khrushchev's position in the Sino-Soviet dispute and occasionally utter anti-Western tones to protect himself against his Stalinist critics. Tito is not disposed to enter into any pact, but will consider less formal arrangements, particularly if he can benefit from them. In effect he is once again asserting his old independent Communist line.

Iraq

The movement away from Communist influence continues. The Chief of the Iraqi Air Force has put out feelers for Western aid, particularly U.S. helicopters and British fighters. He wants to replace as much Soviet equipment as possible, and in the meantime is ousting all Communist instructors and technicians that infiltrated the Iraqi armed forces under Kassem. The effective Communist security procedures have been abandoned and Western Attachés have been invited to inspect military bases, and the Iraqi military have again been authorized and even encouraged to renew their acquaintances with Western officials.

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Korea

General Pak, Korea's military ruler, has decided to defer restoration of the democratic processes by proposing a referendum which would keep him in power for another four years. At the time of the announcement he spoke with such confidence as to suggest that the result would be determined in advance. Continuation of the Pak regime seriously affects continuation of best relations with other countries. Until civil liberties and constitutional processes are restored, Korea's development and future are questionable.

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